

Please find **FAVORABLE SB677**
Public Safety – Handgun Permits – Firearms Training Course

This bill modernizes Maryland’s handgun permit training requirements by shifting the focus toward **practical defensive competence and real-world skills** rather than excessive regulatory instruction. The revised curriculum places greater emphasis on handgun nomenclature, ammunition selection, defensive shooting skills, drawing from concealment, stoppage remediation, and post-incident mindset. These are the skills that matter most if a citizen is ever forced to defend themselves.

By focusing on applied skills such as responding to an attack, de-escalation, and safe firearm handling under stress — this bill strengthens public safety in a meaningful way. Permit holders will not merely understand the law; they will be better equipped to avoid conflict, safely carry, and competently handle a defensive firearm if ever confronted with a real-world threat.

By prioritizing safe handling, real defensive techniques, and scenario-based preparedness, this bill enhances public safety. Well-trained, competent permit holders are safer citizens. Practical training reduces negligent discharges, improves decision-making under stress, and reinforces responsible carry practices.

SB 677 strikes the right balance: it preserves strong safety components while ensuring that the required training meaningfully prepares individuals for lawful self-defense. For these reasons, I respectfully request a favorable report on SB 677.

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